

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SANAA 0377

AID/W FOR AL RUIZ AID REP/YEMEN

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PROP, ALIB, SCUL, PFOR, YE,HHS

SUBJECT: CLOSING OF FOREIGN CULTURAL CENTERS IN YAR: IMPACT ON USIS

1. SUMMARY: DEAN YARG INSTITUTE PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION MET TOGETHER  
PAO AND BRITISH COUNCIL REP TO INQUIRE RE POSSIBILITY MORE  
CLOSELY COORDINATING RESPECTIVE TEFL PROGRAMS. TO PRESERVE ACTIVITIES

USIS AND COUNCIL, AND AT SAME TIME TO WARD OFF DIPLOMATIC ATTACKS  
FROM ARAB EMBASSIES WHOSE CULTURAL CENTERS BEING CLOSED, YARG WISHES  
LINK USIS AND BRITISH COUNCIL IN SOME WAY TO IPA. PAO AND COUNCIL  
REP EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS COOPERATE ANY REASONABLE FORM  
COORDINATION, BUT STATED OVERALL INTERESTS THEIR GOVERNMENTS WHICH  
YARG WOULD HAVE TO RESPECT IN ANY TYPE COORDINATION AGREEMENT.  
IPA DEAN DID NOT POSE PARTICULAR SUGGESTION RE TYPE COORDINATION  
HE PREFERRED, BUT SPECIFIC PROPOSAL WILL BE FORTHCOMING SHORTLY.  
END SUMMARY.

2. PAO NUGENT AND BRITISH COUNCIL REP CLIVE SMITH MET FEB 12  
WITH DEAN INSTITUTE PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION MUHAMMAD AN'AM GHALIB AT  
LATTER'S REQUEST. ALSO PRESENT WAS UN/IPA ADVISORY TEAM LEADER  
ELLIOTT ROBERTS.

3. GHALIB STATED HE HAD CONVENED MEETING AT REQUEST FOREIGN  
MINISTER, TO DISCUSS POSSIBILITIES FOR COORDINATING USIS AND  
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BRITISH COUNCIL TEFL ACTIVITIES WITH IPA. YARG INTERESTED

PRESERVING AND FOSTERING ACTIVITIES OF COUNCIL AND USIS, WHICH IT VIEWS AS "CONSTRUCTIVE", BUT IS WORRIED ABOUT ADVERSE DIPLOMATIC REACTION THIS SUPPORT LIKELY TO PROVOKE FROM ARAB STATES WHOSE CULTURAL CENTERS BEING CLOSED. GHALIB MADE IT CLEAR YARG EQUALLY CONCERNED SUPPORTING CONTINUATION USIS AND COUNCIL ACTIVITIES AND PROTECTING ITS DIPLOMATIC FLANK. TO LATTER END, IT DESIRED LINK TEFL ACTIVITIES OF USIS AND COUNCIL IN SOME WAY TO IPA.

4. IN ANSWER SMITH'S INQUIRY WHAT TYPE LINK YARG HAD IN MIND, GHALIB REPLIED FOR MIN HAD NOT INSTRUCTED HIM SEEK ANY PARTICULAR FORM OF COORDINATION, BUT SIMPLY DISCUSS OPTIONS WITH USIS AND COUNCIL AND ATTEMPT REACH AGREEMENT ACCEPTABLE ALL PARTIES. HE SUGGESTED ARRANGEMENT COULD RUN FROM USIS AND COUNCIL CONTINUING CONDUCT CLASSES IN OWN SEPARATE FACILITIES UNDER AEGIS IPA TO INTEGRATING PROGRAMS FULLY WITH IPA ON ITS PREMISES. HE ASKED ROBERTS IF IPA HAD ADEQUATE FACILITIES HOUSE COUNCIL AND USIS TEFL PROGRAMS, AS WELL AS ITS OWN. ROBERTS HAD CLEARLY NOT BEEN BRIEFED ON SUBJECT OF MEETING IN ADVANCE, AND REPLIED HE WOULD HAVE STUDY MATTER.

5. BOTH NUGENT AND SMITH ASSURED GHALIB THEIR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS PREPARED CONSIDER ANY REASONABLE PROPOSAL FORWARDED BY YARG. THEY FURTHER STATED THAT INTERESTS THEIR RESPECTIVE AGENCIES EXTENDED FAR BEYOND TEFL TO WIDE RANGE CULTURAL AND INFORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

6. NUGENT ADDED THAT USG WOULD WEIGH MERITS ANY SPECIFIC YARG PROPOSALS AGAINST TWO CRITERIA: (1) WOULD TEFL PROGRAM BE EFFECTIVELY MANAGED AND MEET OVERALL USG OBJECTIVES UNDER WHATEVER ARRANGEMENT WAS PROPOSED, AND (2) IN BROADER PERSPECTIVE, WOULD USIS CONTINUE BE PERMITTED OPERATE UNRESTRICTED IN YEMEN? IF YARG DESIRED SUBSUME USIS TEFL ACTIVITIES FULLY INTO IPA, HE ASKED WHAT IMPACT THIS WOULD HAVE ON PAO POSITION AND ON EXISTENCE SEPARATE FACILITY RUN BY USIS. GHALIB REPLIED QUESTION HAD NOT ARISEN IN HIS DISCUSSION WITH FONMIN, BUT SAID YARG NOT INTERESTED SEEKING ABOLISH EITHER PAO POSITION OR SEPARATE OFFICES FROM WHICH TO OPERATE.

7. NUGENT REITERATED USG WILLINGNESS CONSIDER ANY REASONABLE  
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YARG PROPOSAL THAT PROTECTED ITS OVERALL INTERESTS. HE ADDED THAT UPON HIS ARRIVAL IN YEMEN IN JULY 1973, WHEN STATUS USIS PROGRAM VERY FLUID, HE HAD IN FACT INFORMALLY EXPLORED WITH IPA POSSIBILITY CONDUCTING USIS TEFL CLASSES ON IPA PREMISES. AT THAT TIME IPA WAS NOT INTERESTED IN SUCH ARRANGEMENT. BECAUSE OF IPA'S ORIGINAL DISINTEREST, HE HAD NOT RAISED SUBJECT SUCH COORDINATION WITH WASHINGTON AND CONSEQUENTLY HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS ON WHAT SPECIFIC TYPE USIS-IPA COORDINATION WOULD

BE ACCEPTABLE TO USG. FINALLY, NUGENT POINTED OUT THAT SEVERAL USG AGENCIES WERE INVOLVED IN YEMEN-AMERICA LANGUAGE INSTITUTE'S TEFL EFFORTS, AND THAT CONCURRENCE OF ALL WOULD BE REQUIRED BEFORE MEANINGFUL AGREEMENT FOR COORDINATION WITH IPA COULD BE DEvised.

8. ROBERTS SUGGESTED BEST WAY PROCEED WOULD BE FOR IPA DRAFT UP SPECIFIC PROPOSALS FOR UK AND US CONSERATION AND RESPONSE. PROMISED PREPARE THEM SOONEST. ALL CONCURRED AND MEETING CONCLUDED.

9. COMMENT: DURING MEEETING, GHALIB WAS HIS TYPICALLY TERSE SELF, BUT BOTH NUGENT AND SMITH FELT THAT HE WAS ATTEMPTING BE HELPFUL. TONE OF ENTIRE MEETING VERY CORDIAL. GHALIB CLOSE POLITICAL AND PERSONAL ASSOCIATE FONMIN AL-ASNAG AND WELL CONNECTED RIGHT UP THROUGH LT.COL. HAMDI. NUGENT AND SMITH FELT THAT GHALIB'S POSITIVE TONE PROBABLY REFLECTED BOTH ASNAG'S AND HAMDI'S VIEWPOINT. NONETHELESS, GHALIB NEVER SPECIFIED WHETHER YARG VIEWS ALL OR ONLY SOME USIS AND BRITISH COUNCIL ACTIVITIES AS "CONSTRUCTIVE", AND NEVER FLATLY STATED THAT YARG WILLING ACCORD COUNCIL AND USIS CARTE BLANCHE OPERATE OUTSIDE FIELD OF TEFL. WILL NOT BE IN POSITION CLEARLY READ YARG'S OVERALL INTENTIONS RE FUTURE USIS AND COUNCIL OPERATIONS UNTIL DISCUSSIONS FURTHER ADVANCED.

10. WILL ADVISE SPECIFICS IPA PROPOSAL AS SOON AS RECEIVED.  
SCOTES

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## Message Attributes

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